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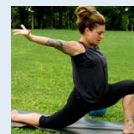
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Culinary Girlfriends Getaway to the Gervasi Vineyard in Canton, Ohio

By: [Jan Ross](#)

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credit: isante_magazine

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If you like to cook, drink wine, or just enjoy a fabulous meal prepared by someone else, you must plan a fun [girlfriend getaway](#) to the [Gervasi Vineyard](#). Hidden away in a quiet neighborhood, you will probably think you have taken a wrong turn until you spot the elaborate entrance to the vineyard, a sprawling 55-acre estate which includes 5 acres of vineyards producing a variety of grapes, two restaurants, an outdoor pavilion for weddings and other events, a cozy shop, an event center, and 24 guest suites housed in some amazing, Tuscan-influenced villas. It's obvious this location was purchased and lovingly built by an Italian family as the Tuscan influence is felt throughout the property in every detail from

wine bottle shaped sinks in The Crush House restaurant to the gorgeous faucets in the bathroom villas.



Culinary and Wine Tasting Classes at Gervasi Vineyard

Rated at the top of our list of things to do in Canton Ohio is to participate in one of the extensive culinary and wine tasting classes offered at The Cucina, in the Villa Grande. This space functions as both an event space and where you check in if you are staying in one of the Villas. With a large, professional, working kitchen and a dining area to enjoy what you prepare, they offer classes on everything from the cuisines of Mexico, Japan, Italy, or South America as well as speciality classes in seafood etc.

Most of the classes are hands-on and everyone in the class will dive in and get personalized instruction from one of the experienced chef instructors to create a meal that you will sit down and enjoy with a glass of wine. We observed the seafood cooking class and were amazed at the detailed work that went into the beautiful final products - which they were kind enough to share with us! There are also some demonstration classes, where you observe a master chef at work and get to sample as they cook.

You can register online at the Gervasi Vineyard web site but they fill up quickly, so we would recommend booking well in advance if you are interested. Dress casually and comfortably and don't worry about an apron; you will get a free one to take home as part of your registration fee. Kids 15 and older can also register for the classes and they do offer some cooking classes for smaller children as well. The fee for the class includes a glass of wine with your meal although not while cooking - for safety reasons!

Although we did not participate in a wine tasting class, this is one of the specialties, of course since this is a vineyard! Whether you are new to wine or have your own wine cellar, they offer classes that will have you thinking about and learning to appreciate a wide variety of wines. There are classes on wine appreciation, demystifying wine tasting, wine and food pairings, or looks at wine vintages of Italy or France. All classes are taught by experienced wine educators in the tasting room in the Villa Grande.

Gervasi Vineyard Tours

During our stay we toured the state-of-the-art winery facilities at The Crush House, as well as the new restaurant at the vineyard. No reservations are required for the public tours and we were astonished at all the computers, modern equipment, stainless steel tanks for storage, and absolutely immaculate state of the winery.

Every Saturday at 3:30 and 4:30 they offer more in-depth tours of the winery led by a member of the wine making team. This includes a selection of small bites and Gervasi wine tastings at the end of the tour. You can purchase tickets online. In addition, private winery tours are available for small groups of 30 or less interested in a tour. You can choose from wine tastings or a wine paired with small plates and there are also private rooms available for rent to enjoy the wine after the tour.

Treat Yourself to Dinner Out

Either before or after your tour of the winery, you will definitely want to have a meal (or several) at The Crush House restaurant. After we had dinner there our last night, we were very sorry we had to leave the next day after only one meal! Designed to resemble a very contemporary restaurant you might find in a big city, with lots of open spaces, red walls, and a staircase to a second level, the Crush House offers a casual dining atmosphere with a focus on small plates and variety of taste experiences. We sampled their famous short ribs, a fragrant potato and leek soup, a potato skins appetizer, and a flat bread sandwich and all were delicious.



We also had both lunch and dinner at The Bistro restaurant. A little fancier than The Crush House, The Bistro resembles a rustic, Tuscan Italian farmhouse with lots of wood, comfortable seating, a fireplace and a menu with Italian small and large plates for sharing. Using fresh, seasonal ingredients, they offer antipasti, salads, and wonderful brick-fired artisan pizzas. We sampled the crab roll appetizers and the hot and amazing pizzas and recommend both. Be sure to pop in The Marketplace, a little shop right beside The Bistro where you can buy wine to take home as well as an assortment of interesting gifts.

Villas at Gervasi Vineyards

We enjoyed every single thing about our visit but one of our favorite parts was staying in the Vineyard Villas. The Villas comprise an upscale boutique Inn which has six Villas each having

four individual suites and a cozy, spacious lobby area complete with a small kitchen, comfortable furniture, a fireplace, and doors out onto a furnished patio. Many of the Villas overlook the spring-fed lake where ducks and swans were swimming lazily, undeterred by the ice floating in the wintery water. The gorgeous suites each have their own fireplace, stucco walls, heated floors, and rustic wood interiors. The small kitchen in the lobby is furnished with a microwave, ice maker, sink, and refrigerator stocked with complimentary drinks including bottled water, teas, juice, and sodas as well as yogurt. Guest services replenishes the drinks daily when they make up the suites.



The most appreciated amenity at the Villas is a fresh, hot breakfast is delivered every morning to each villa. You can specify the time you want it delivered and just open your door to find a large wooden box with a lid and the number of your suite on it left on the kitchen counter like a special gift from an especially talented culinary elf! Every day the food was different but featured freshly made pastries stuffed with meat, cheese, and vegetables, freshly baked chocolate bars, and fresh grapes.

We did not have time on this trip to take advantage of the spa services offered in the Villas but you can schedule manicures, pedicures, massages, facials or hair and make-up all in your private Villa. Perfect for a special event or wedding group that is taking over the entire Villa.

So, whether you want to eat, drink, stroll around the beautiful property which adjoins local hiking trails, or just relax in front of the fireplace and read a good book, Gervasi Vineyard is the perfect girlfriends getaway location!

Jan Ross is a freelance travel writer who has been traveling the world since way back before she can even remember. Her dad was in the Marine Corps so she is used to packing up at a moment's notice! She loves writing hotel and restaurant reviews since it means she gets to stay in fabulous places and eat wonderful food. She especially loves writing spa reviews because that means she gets phenomenally pampered and, seriously, who does not like that? She has visited lots of places but still gets a thrill of excitement when she boards a plane, steps into a new hotel room, or sees a new location for the first time. And she hopes that thrill never, ever goes away.

For more information on Jan, visit her website at WanderlustWonder.com.

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